Biased information by TV channels and newspapers

1840. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some TV channels and newspapers do not give correct inforfnation about certain events or give biased information; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Press in India is free from Government control. The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory body established for preserving the freedom of the Press and for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. PCI has set the Norms for Journalistic Ethics. Norms laid down by PCI state that Editors must check the authenticity of each story and comments/versions of all concerned parties must be included. The PCI may warn admonish or censure the newspapers, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the Editor or the journalist as the case may be, for offending the standards of journalistic ethics or public taste or for professional misconduct.

As regards Prasar Bharati, the Prasar Bharati Charter and the Parthasarathy Guidelines are being strictly followed by Doordarshan News to carry fair and objective news. The reporting of News in Doordarshan is factual, accurate and objective.

All programmes transmitted/retransmitted through cable networks are required to adhere to the provisions of the Programmes Code prescribed under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code *inter alia* prescribed that no Programme should be carried in the Cable Service, which contains anything obscene, false or suggestive innuendos etc.